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formed by a wall having a front facial opening, wherein the rear lower portion of the wall, which corresponds to the zone occupied by the nape of the user, includes resilient bending means formed unitarily and in one-piece with said main outer shell.

18.¹⁹ (Amended) A protective helmet of the type including a main outer shell formed by a wall having a front facial opening, wherein the rear lower portion of the wall, which corresponds to the zone occupied by the nape of the user, includes a resilient bending portion formed unitarily and in one-piece with said main outer shell.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1 and 18 will have been amended, and claims 1-20 are pending for reconsideration by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, the Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that dependent claims 14 and 15 are allowed and that claims 9-13, 16, 17, 19 and 20 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants also note with appreciation the Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 8, 1997 by return of a copy of the Form PTO-1449 with the appropriate spaces initialed by